Maintenance of law and order lies primarily in the domain of the concerned State Governments. The Central Government also closely monitors the situation and provides assistance by various means to the concerned State Governments.

Scheme for protection of witnesses

3169. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to enforce any scheme for the protection of witnesses; and

(b) if so, the details of essential features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) The Law Commission of India in its 198th Report on 'Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programmes' has suggested comprehensive review of witness protection. Since, the Criminal Law and the Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India this requires consultation with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Report has been referred to all the State Government and Union Territory Administration for their comments/views. No time frame can be fixed in this regard.

(b) Witness Protection Programmes refer to witness protection outside the Court. At the instance of the public prosecutor, the witness can be given a new identity by a Magistrate after conducting an *exparte* inquiry in his chambers. In a case of likelihood of danger to his life, he is given a different identity and may, if need be, even relocated in different place along with his depandants till the trial of the case against the accused is completed. The expenses for maintenance of all the persons must be met by the State Legal Aid Authority through the District Legal Aid Authority. The witness has to sign an MoU which will list out the obligations of the State as well the witness. Being admitted to the programme, the witness has an obligation to depose and the State has an obligation to protect him physically outside Court. Breach of MoU by the witness will result in his being taken out of the programme.

Rise in naxalite activities

† 3170. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that naxalite activities have been increasing in the country for the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of districts identified in naxal affected States in April, 2004;

(c) the number of such States and districts during December, 2007 alongwith their names; and

(d) the reasons for this rapid increase in the naxalite activities?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRI PRAICASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Details of naxalite violence during the last 5 years are given below:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Incidents	1597	1533	1608	1509	1565
Casualties of Security Forces	105	100	153	157	236
Casualties of Civilians	410	466	524	521	460

Maintenance of law and order lies primarily in the domain of the concerned State Governments. The Central Government also closely monitors the situation and provides assistance by various means to the concerned State Governments.

Under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme, Ministry of Home Affairs reimburses security-related expenditure in respect of specified items to the concerned State Governments for dealing with naxalite activities. 76 districts in 9 States are included under this Scheme since the financial year 2004-05 to date. The list is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of the Districts included under the SRE Scheme
Details of the Districts included under the SRE Scheme

Andhra Pradesh	29. Sitamarhi	Madhya Pradesh
1. Anantapur	30. West Champaran	55. Balaghat
2.Adilabad		56.Dindori
3. East Godavari	Chhattisgarh	57. Mandla
4. Guntur	31. Bastar	
5. Karimnagar	32. Dantewada	Maharashtra
6.Khammam	33. Jashpur	58. Bhandara
7. Kurnool	34. Kanker	59. Chandrapur
8. Medak	35. Kawardha	60. Gadchiroli
9. Mehboobnagar	36. Korea (Baikunthpur/	61.Gondra
lO.Nalgonda	Rajnandgaon)	
11. Nizamabad	37. Rajnandgaon	Orissa
12. Prakasam	38. Sarguja	62. Gajapati
13. Srikakulam		63. Ganjam
14. Visakhapatnam		64. Keonjhar
15. Vizianagaram	Jharkhand	65.Koraput
16. Warangal	39. Bokaro	66. Malkangiri
	40. Chatra	67. Mayurbhanj
	41.Dhanbad	68. Navrangpur
Bihar	42. East Singbbhun	69. Rayagada
17.Arwal	43.Garhwa	70. Sundargarh
18. Aurangabad	44. Giridih	
19.Bhojpur	45. Gumla	Uttar Pradesh
20. East Champaran	46. Hazaribagh	71.Chandauli
21.Gaya	47. Koderma	72. Mirzapur
22. Jamui	48. Latehar	73. Sonebhadra
23.Jehanabad	49. Lohardagga	
24. Kaimur	50. Palamu	West Bengal
25.Nalanda	51.Ranchi	74. Bankura
26.Nawada	52. Simdega	75. Midnapore
27. Patna	53. Saraikela-Kharaswan	76. Purulia
28. Rohtas	54. West Singhbhum	